MARVEL COMICS
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MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

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WOLVERINE ..... Page 1

Sign of the Beast
Part 1 of 2

"THE QUEST OF ABDUL ALHAZRED"

Wolverine has given his beast side free rein in the jungles of Madripoor. It is a decision with fatal consequences when a kidnaped Archie Corrigan and Tyger Tiger and their captors cross his path!

Writer — DWIGHT ZIMMERMAN
Penciler — PAUL RYAN
Inker — HARRY CANDELARIO
Letterer — TODD KLEIN
Colorist — NEL YOMTOV

POISON ..... Page 9

Vandals of the Heart
Part 3 of 8

"INTIMATE ASSASSINS"

Cecilia Cardinale's 'round-the-clock schedule—mother and motel housekeeper by day, Poison by night—is taking a mounting toll on her health, her wits, and her relationship with her son, Carlos. Yet Joe Trinity, the man whose wounded heart she's chosen to avenge, faces an even greater peril.

Writer — STEVE GERBER
Art — CINDY MARTIN
Letterer — TIM HARKINS
Colorist — CHRIS IVY

SCARLET WITCH ..... Page 17

Separate Lives
Part 3 of 4

"YOU SHOULDN'T LIVE IN THE PAST"

Thrust back into time by the mad Past Master, the Scarlet Witch finds herself trapped in the body of her pirate queen ancestor, Red Lucy.
Wanda's mutant hex power has saved Lucy's life, and Lucy has sworn to help Wanda return to her own time.

Story/Art — RICHARD HOWELL

DEATHLOK ..... Page 25

"TEST RUN"

In this story that takes place right before the Limited Series, Cybertek is about to test the Deathlok Military Cyborg. A simple system's run-through becomes a nightmare when a sudden "glitch" tries to take control of the cyborg.

Writers — DWAYNE McDUFFIE/GREGORY WRIGHT
Artist — JACKSON GUICE
Letterer — RICHARD STARKINGS
Colorist — GREGORY WRIGHT

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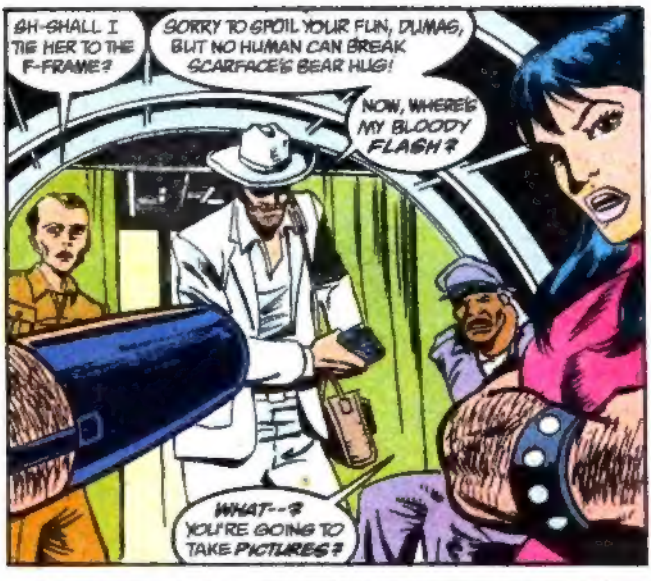
POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, c/o MARVEL COMICS, SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

I WAS ON A HUNT. SO WAS THIS PACK OF WILD DOGS OF MADRIPOOR. THEY NEEDED FOOD. MY NEED WAS... DIFFERENT.
OUR MUTUAL QUARRY WAS THAT ESCAPING DEER. I FIGURED I COULD TOUCH IT BEFORE THE DOGS KNEW I WAS AROUND.
I DID.
AN' NOW THESE KILLERS PLAN TO MAKE ME THEIR MAIN COURSE. THEIR MISTAKE.
OF COURSE, THEY'RE NOT GONNA TURN TAIL JUST ON MY SAY-SO. THEY'VE GOTTA BE CONVINCED...
WOLVERINE
in
SIGN OF THE BEAST
PART I:
"THE QUEST OF ABDUL ALHAZRED"

...THE HARD WAY.
I'M GOOD AT THAT. YOU MIGHT SAY IT'S MY SPECIALTY.
UNFORTUNATELY, THEY KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT BLOOD-SPILLIN', TOO.
AN' THEY OUTNUMBER ME.
I'M IN TROUBLE.
THE DOG PACK WAS HUNGRY ENOUGH TO ACTUALLY HURT ME. ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE THAT LEAP. GOOD THING I DON'T HAVE TO GO ANYWHERE.
CUTTIN' THROUGH THEM NOW WOULD COST ME.
SO MIGHT AS WELL GET COMFY. COULD TAKE A WHILE BEFORE MY MUTANT HEALING FACTOR FIXES--
THAT NOISE. AIRPLANE ENGINES.
THEY SOUND FAMILIAR-- AND LOUD.
A DC-3. THE ONE ARCHIE CORRIGAN OWNS. FLYIN' AT ALMOST TREETOP LEVEL.
THAT'S BAD NEWS. NO ONE RISKS THE TRICKY LOW-LEVEL AIR CURRENTS UNLESS HE'S GOT A GOOD REASON--
--ONE THAT INVOLVES AVOIDIN' THE LAW.

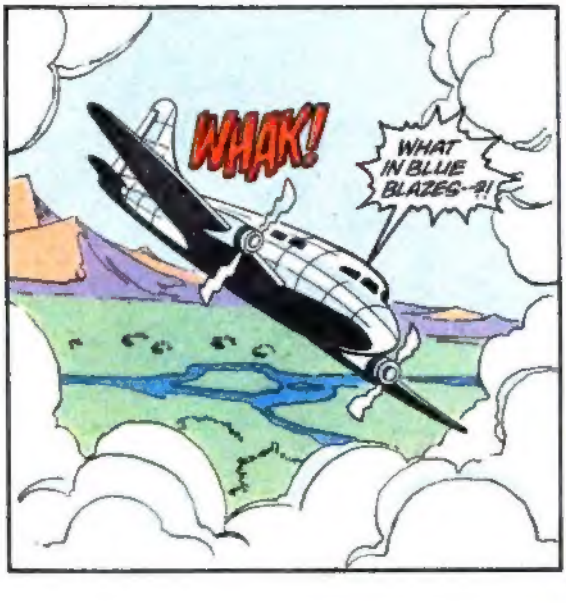
BISMILLAH! MUCH COST AND TROUBLE I HAVE SUFFERED TO OBTAIN THIS PRIZE FOR MY MASTER.
BUT WHAT A PRIZE! OBSERVE IN HER EYES THE REASON MY MASTER DESIRES HER!
THERE IS FIRE. THERE IS FURY. THERE IS... LIFE! EVEN A NIGHT WITH SCHEHERAZADE HERSELF WOULD PALE BESIDE WHAT MY MASTER WILL FIND IN TIGER TIGER!
I MAY BE YOUR PRISONER...
CAREFUL, TIGER...
YOU'RE JUST BLOODY LUCKY SHE CAN'T KILL YOU WITH THOSE EYES, SHEIK!
LISTEN, BROTHER! RHYS IS LIKE LITTLE DUMAS--AFRAID OF THE WOMAN.
BAH! I BROKE HER GUARDS' BACKS. I TAME HER GAME WAY-- WITH MY STUMP!
...BUT I WILL NEVER BE ANYONE'S PLAYTHING!
ARRGH!
SO, VIRAGO, THE TASTE OF MY BLOOD BRINGS A SMILE TO YOUR LIPS, DOES IT?
VERY WELL. SCARFACE! STUMP! TAKE HER!
AND TEACH HER THE LESSON ALL WOMEN MUST LEARN WHEN THEY CHALLENGE THE WILL OF MY MASTER!
THIS WILL HURT, WOMAN!


SH-SHALL I TIE HER TO THE F-FRAME?
SORRY TO SPOIL YOUR FUN, DUMAS, BUT NO HUMAN CAN BREAK SCARFACE'S BEAR HUG!
NOW, WHERE'S MY BLOODY FLASH?
WHAT--? YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE PICTURES?

TOO RIGHT, MR. CORRIGAN! I HAVE CLIENTS WHO WILL PAY A FORTUNE FOR THESE PHOTOS!
Y-YOU'RE SICK!
MONEY-HUNGRY, ACTUALLY.
COMES FROM BEING DROWNED.

STOP SQUIRMING! YOU CANNOT ESCAPE.
OH? IS YOUR GRIP SO STRONG--

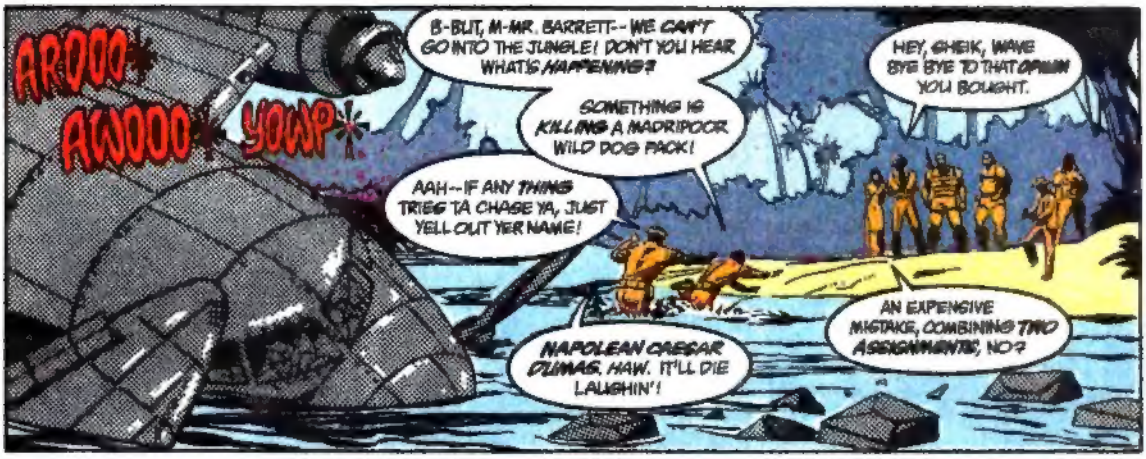
--THAT YOU CAN SUSTAIN IT EVEN WHEN YOU ARE UNCONSCIOUS?
UHH--?


WHAK!
WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES--?!

HEY, SHEIK! TELL THOSE BLOCKHEADS TA STAY PUT!
OR NEXT TIME YA'LL HAVETA WALK OUTTA MADRIPOOR--PROVIDED YA SURVIVE THE CRASH!

BARRETT IS RIGHT, STUMP. ALSO, WOULDN'T YOUR POOR, UNCONSCIOUS BROTHER APPRECIATE A PERFECTLY FOCUSED COPY OF YOUR REVENGE?
GOTTA STOP THEM.
AND I THINK I KNOW HOW!
HEY, RHYS, INSTEAD OF STEPPING BACK...
...WHY DON'T YOU START WITH A CLOSE-UP!
MY CAMERA-- NO!
WHOOF!
M-MR. RHYS! Y-YOU MAKE BIG M-MISTAKE!
ME--? IT WAS THAT BLOODY CORRIGAN! IF MY CAMERA'S--
WHA--?
YOU HIT STUMP FROM BEHIND--?
STUMP! REMEMBER BARRETT'S WARNING!
ENGLISHMAN MUST LEARN! NO ONE HITS STUMP FROM BEHIND! NO ONE!
KRAK!
BLIMEY!
UNGH!
HEY, GHEIK--I'M NOT JOKIN'! THE WINDS HERE ARE TREACHEROUS! GO KEEP THOSE CLOWNS IN LINE, OR I'LL--
WHO IN THE DEVIL--?!

DUMAG--YA BLASTED IDJIT! D'YA KNOW WHAT YER WHIRLIN' DERVISH STUNT JUST DID?
IT PUSHED THE PLANE INTA A POWER DIVE--RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A DOWN-DRAFT!
D-DON'T HIT M-ME, M-MR. BARRETT! IT WASN'T--
GHADDAP! GET OFF!
AN' PRAY I CAN PULL THIS PLANE'S NOSE UP--OR WE'RE ALL DEAD!
IT'S STARTING TO PULL UP.
BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH.
NOW I'VE GOT A PROBLEM. ARCHIE'S MY FRIEND. HE'S IN TROUBLE. BUT I'VE GOT A HUNGRY DOG PACK BETWEEN ME AN' HIM. AN' I'M STILL IN ROUGH SHAPE.
MAY HAVE TO GIVE MY BEAST SIDE FREE REIN TO CUT THROUGH. THAT'S THE EASY PART.
SKRTCH!
THE HARD PARTS GONNA BE REGAINING CONTROL BEFORE I REACH ARCHIE. IF I DON'T, ARCHIE COULD END UP DEAD, TOO!


AROOO
AWOOO
YOWP
B-BUT, M-MR. BARRETT-- WE CAN'T GO INTO THE JUNGLE! DON'T YOU HEAR WHAT'S HAPPENING?
SOMETHING IS KILLING A MADRIPOOR WILD DOG PACK!
AAH--IF ANY THING TRIES TA CHASE YA, JUST YELL OUT YER NAME!
HEY, SHEIK, WAVE BYE BYE TO THAT DRAGON YOU BOUGHT.
AN EXPENSIVE MISTAKE, COMBINING TWO ASSIGNMENTS, NO?
NAPOLEAN CAESAR DUMAS. HAW. IT'LL DIE LAUGHIN'!

EXPENSIVE? IT'S A BLOODY DISASTER! MY CAMERA'S RUINED!
SHEIK! YOU PROMISED US A KING'S RANSOM FOR OUR HELP!
IS THAT IT BEING WASHED AWAY?
FEH, YOU WILL BE PAID.

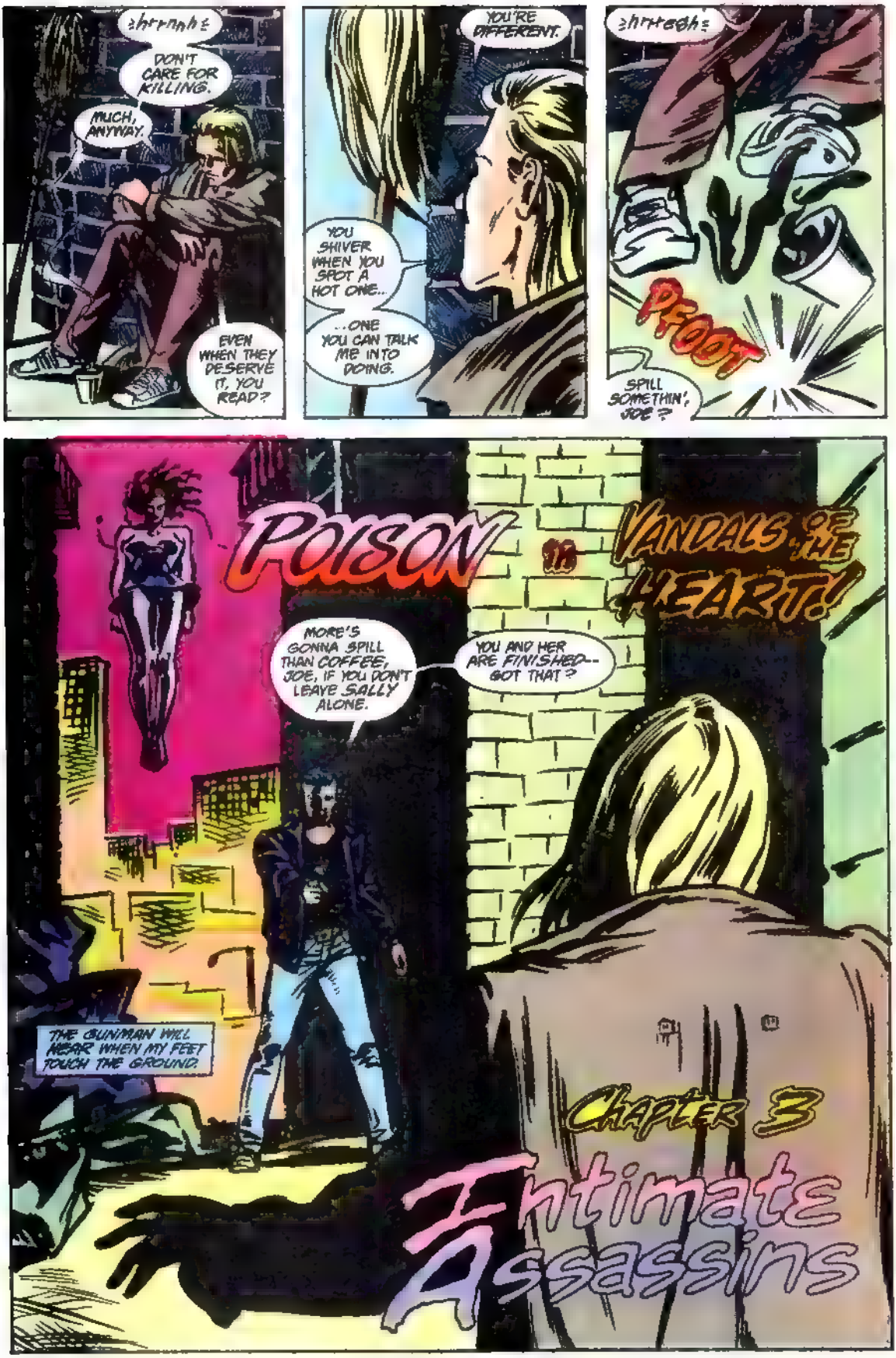
WE WILL? HOW?

YOU CAN'T TELL ME YOUR "MASTER" CAN LAUGH OFF THAT LOST FORTUNE!
THE MONEY LOSS MEANS NOTHING TO HIM.
NOTHING?! I'VE HEARD ENOUGH! I DEMAND HIS NAME-- NOW! OR--

BECAUSE IT AMUSES ME... I WILL SHOW YOU WHOM I SERVE. I TRUST THIS IMAGE ENDS YOUR DOUBTS?
I--I-- I--
GLAZES!
THAT INTRO-- IT'S THE SIGN OF..
...ABDUL ALHAZRED!

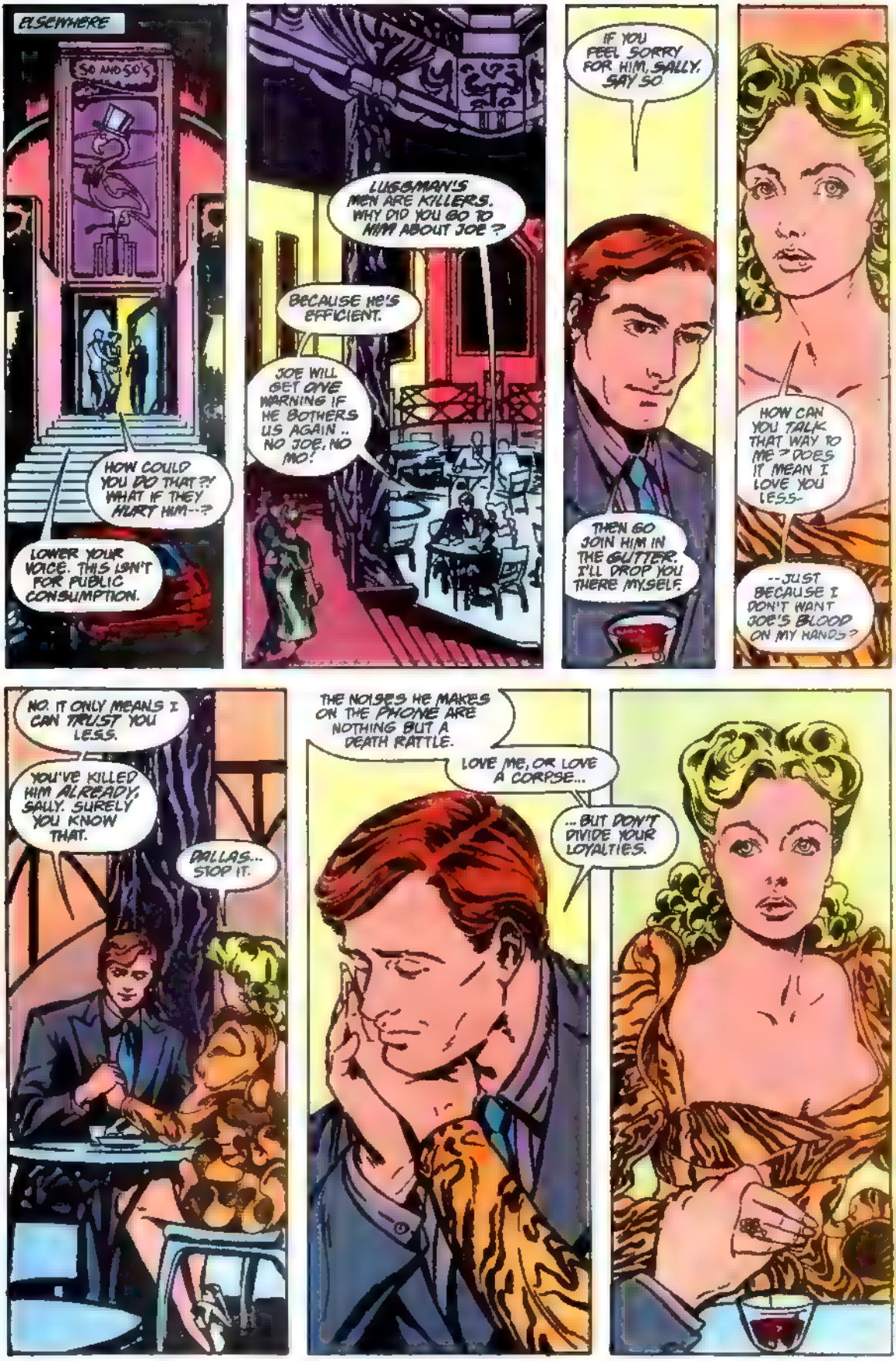
RRR RRRRR

RRRAAARRRR
BLIMEY! WHAT KIND OF ANIMAL--?
NO--
--NOT ANIMAL! MAN!
HEY!
IT'S WOLVERINE! BUT HIS EYES--HE DOES NOT RECOGNIZE ME!
IN THE NAME OF MY MASTER, STOP HIM--HE'S GOT ONE OF THE PRISONERS!
HOW? HE'S FAST AS BLOODY LIGHTNING!
EEAAAAH!
THAT SOUND--LIKE THAT OF A SOUL BEING TORN FROM ITS FLESH!
WE GOTTA SAVE HIM!
NO!
YA AIN'T GOT NO CHOICE, RUNT!
WOLVERINE--WHAT DID YOU DO TO ARCHIE... YOUR FRIEND?
BARRETT SPEAKS SOOTH! THOUGH TIGER TIGER IS THE PRIZE, MY MASTER ALSO HAS NEED FOR MR. CORRIGAN!
I SEE SOMETHING! THIS WAY!
OH GOOD LORD!
IT IS A PIECE OF CORRIGAN'S SHIRT--AND IT IS COVERED WITH BLOOD!
IT IS QUIET!
TOO QUIET, I SAY! I BET THAT "WILD MAN OF BORNEO" IS WATCHING US--AND PLANNING HIS NEXT ATTACK!
AYE.
ARCHIE--DEAD? THEN WE ARE DOOMED. WOLVERINE HAS BECOME A BLOOD-MAD BEAST!
CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE ...


shrrrrhh
DON'T CARE FOR KILLING.
MUCH, ANYWAY.
EVEN WHEN THEY DESERVE IT, YOU READ?
YOU'RE DIFFERENT.
YOU SHIVER WHEN YOU SPOT A HOT ONE..
..ONE YOU CAN TALK ME INTO DOING.
shrrrgh
PFOOT
SPILL SOMETHIN', JOE?
POISON
VANDALS OF THE HEART!
MORE'S GONNA SPILL THAN COFFEE, JOE, IF YOU DON'T LEAVE SALLY ALONE.
YOU AND HER ARE FINISHED-- GOT THAT?
THE GUN MAN WILL NEAR WHEN MY FEET TOUCH THE GROUND.
CHAPTER 3
Intimate Assassins

SINCE THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED..
SKRATCH
--I MUST BE PROPERLY FOCUSED..
PHOST
SO HIS BULLET CAN BE
PTING
YOU WILL GO NOW
OR SUFFER FOR HAVING STAYED
OHWHK..!
SWAK
BEEN TO KARATE CLASS, HAVE Y--
--UHHHH!
WHUD
HE HRS MADE HIS CHOICE
THE ONE I EXPECTED

HE IS CONFUSED
BRUTE FORCE HAS NEVER FAILED HIM BEFORE.
I HAVE TAKEN AWAY THE ONLY WEAPON HE KNOWS HOW TO USE
WITHOUT HIS WEIGHT TO THROW AROUND
KRAK
... HE IS NAKED. POWERLESS
SO HE WILL TRY TO RETRIEVE THE GUN.
LET HIM TRY.
I CAN DRIVE MY FINGERS STRAIGHT INTO YOUR SKULL.
IS THAT NECESSARY, OR ARE WE FINISHED?
F-F-FINISHED..
COME WITH ME TELL ME YOUR STORY.
WHO... ARE YOU?
AN ENEMY OF YOUR ENEMIES.


ELSEWHERE
SO AND SO'S
HOW COULD YOU DO THAT?! WHAT IF THEY HURT HIM--?
LOWER YOUR VOICE. THIS ISN'T FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION.
LUIGI/MAN'S MEN ARE KILLERS. WHY DID YOU GO TO HIM ABOUT JOE?
BECAUSE HE'S EFFICIENT.
JOE WILL GET ONE WARNING IF HE BOTHERS US AGAIN.. NO JOE, NO MO!
IF YOU FEEL SORRY FOR HIM, SALLY, SAY SO
THEN GO JOIN HIM IN THE GUTTER. I'LL DROP YOU THERE MYSELF.
HOW CAN YOU TALK THAT WAY TO ME? DOES IT MEAN I LOVE YOU LESS-
--JUST BECAUSE I DON'T WANT JOE'S BLOOD ON MY HANDS?
NO. IT ONLY MEANS I CAN TRUST YOU LESS.
YOU'VE KILLED HIM ALREADY, SALLY. SURELY YOU KNOW THAT.
DALLAS... STOP IT.
THE NOISES HE MAKES ON THE PHONE ARE NOTHING BUT A DEATH RATTLE.
LOVE ME, OR LOVE A CORPSE...
...BUT DON'T DIVIDE YOUR LOYALTIES.

THE SLUG'S ESTATE...
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, JIMBO WHY YOU DISAPPOINTED ME DOESN'T MATTER.
THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR FAILURE.

I'VE BEEN GOOD TO YOU, JIMBO. I'VE FED YOU, PAID YOU WELL, SEEN THAT ALL YOUR DUBIOUS APPETITES WERE SATISFIED.
AND WHAT DO I GET FOR MY TROUBLE?
EXCUSES.
THAT WASN'T THE ARRANGEMENT, JIMBO.
PLEASE, MR. LUGGMAN-- GIMME ANOTHER CHANCE--I DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD PROTECTION--!

YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN. IT WAS PART OF YOUR JOB TO KNOW.
THINK ABOUT THAT IN THE STEAM ROOM.

... WHILE THE MEMBRANES OF YOUR NOSTRILS COOK, AND YOUR BRAIN BOILS.
CLOSE THE DOOR QUICKLY. IT'S HOT ON MY FEET
CHEFY POWDER

MEANWHILE..
HAVEN'T BEEN BACK HERE SINCE THE HORRENDO.
THAT'S WHAT I CALL IT, YOU READ?
YOUR LAST NIGHT WITH... SALLY, IS IT?
YAH HER. GOOD LEGS..

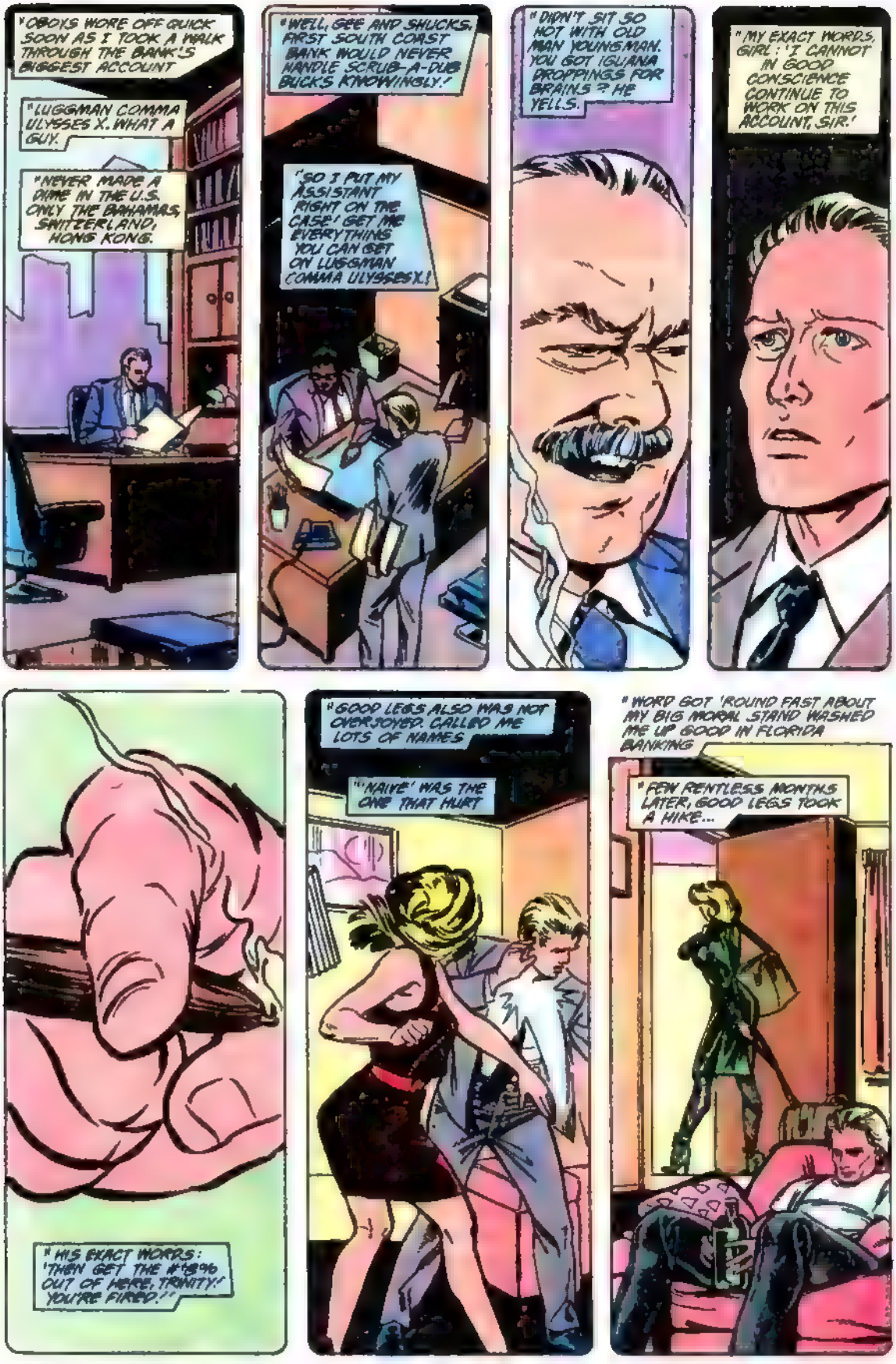
SO YOU WANNA KNOW ABOUT IT, HUH?
YOU'RE ALONE IN THE WORLD, GIRL. FIRST PERSON SINGULAR EVER ASKED

"I'LL START WHEN THE TROUBLE DID.. WITH OLD MAN YOUNGMAN TELLING ME.
"YOU BEEN PROMO'D, HE SAID VEEPEE OBOY!"

"BE WORKING WITH SOME OF THE BANK'S BIGGEST DEPOSITORS, HE SAID OBOY!"
"BE HELPING 'EM WITH IMPORTANT INVESTMENT DECISIONS, HE SAID OBOY!"
"BIG RAISE. BONUS. S.E.S. STOCK OPTIONS. BOYOBOYOBOY! THANK YOU, SIR!"

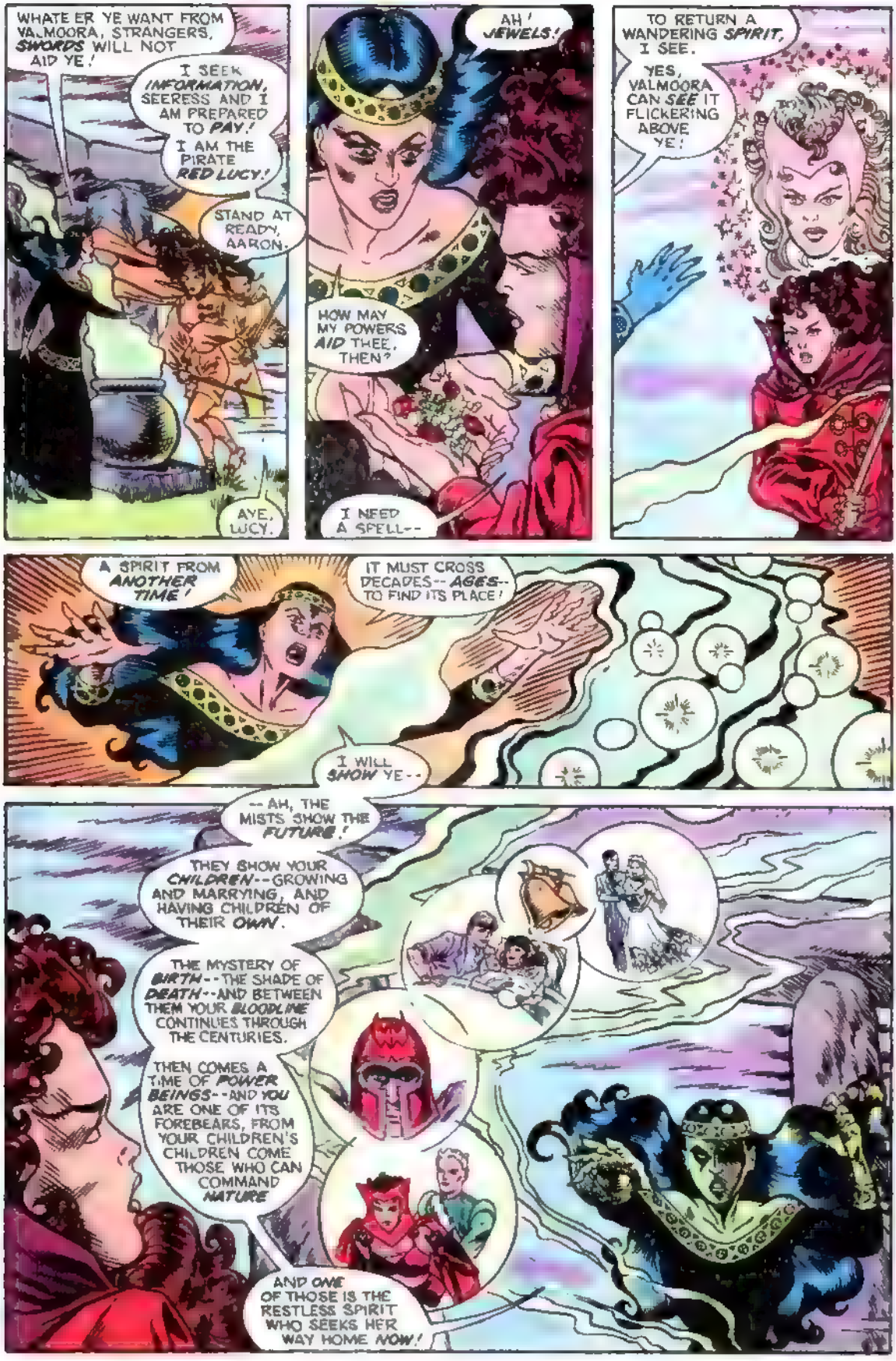
"TOOK THE OBOYS HOME TOLD GOOD LEGS. NAPPY NAPPY TIME
"LIKED ME A-1 THAT AFTERNOON.

"LOVED ME TOPNOTCH THAT NIGHT."


"OBOYS WORE OFF QUICK SOON AS I TOOK A WALK THROUGH THE BANK'S BIGGEST ACCOUNT
"LUGGMAN COMMA ULYSSES X. WHAT A GUY.
"NEVER MADE A DIME IN THE U.S. ONLY THE BAHAMAS, SWITZERLAND, HONG KONG.
"WELL, GEE AND SHUCKS. FIRST SOUTH COAST BANK WOULD NEVER HANDLE SCRUB-A-DUB BUCKS KNOWINGLY."
"SO I PUT MY ASSISTANT RIGHT ON THE CASE! GET ME EVERYTHING YOU CAN GET ON LUGGMAN COMMA ULYSSES X.!
"DIDN'T SIT SO HOT WITH OLD MAN YOUNGMAN. YOU GOT IGUANA DROPPINGS FOR BRAINS? HE YELLS.
"MY EXACT WORDS, GIRL: 'I CANNOT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE CONTINUE TO WORK ON THIS ACCOUNT, SIR.'
"HIS EXACT WORDS: 'THEN GET THE #*!@% OUT OF HERE, TRINITY! YOU'RE FIRED!'"
"GOOD LEGS ALSO WAS NOT OVERJOYED. CALLED ME LOTS OF NAMES
"'NAIVE' WAS THE ONE THAT HURT
"WORD GOT 'ROUND FAST ABOUT MY BIG MORAL STAND WASHED ME UP GOOD IN FLORIDA BANKING
"FEW RENTLESS MONTHS LATER, GOOD LEGS TOOK A HIKE...

MY ASSISTANT - OL' PALLAS KERR-- GOT MY JOB THAT WASN'T SO BAD
IT'S WHEN HE STARTED SEEIN' GOOD LEGS, I CRACKED-- YOU READ?
ARE THEY TOGETHER NOW?
BE THE FIRST WATER I DRANK SINCE I LEFT...
OUGHT I, MYRNA...?
JOE
ARE THEY TOGETHER NOW?
YAH YAH, THEY ARE TWO PEAS IN THE SAME POD ROTTING.
YOU CARE, OR WHAT?
I DO NOT LIKE TO SEE LOVERS IN PAIN
FIND YOURSELF ANOTHER PLANET THEN GIRL
THIS WORLD'S GOT NOTHIN' BUT
NO, JOE
POISON CAN TAKE THE PAIN AWAY
HRRRGH...?!
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE

IN THE YEAR 1587, A SMALL LANDING CRAFT NAVIGATES ITS WAY THROUGH THICK FOG TOWARDS LUNDY ISLAND.
I SEE THE SOUTHERN CLIFFS AHEAD, AARON.
THE WOMAN IS THE PIRATE QUEEN RED LUCY KEOUGH
THIS COVE IS JUST WHERE THE HYDROGRAPHER DREW IT.
AYE, CAP'N.
.. AND HER MISSION IS JUST AS REMARKABLE AS SHE IS --
JUST A SHORT CLIMB..
A RESCUE MISSION.
RED LUCY IS QUESTING TO FREE THE SECOND SPIRIT WHICH INHABITS HER BODY -- A SPIRIT IN EXILE, A SPIRIT DISPLACED IN TIME -- THE SPIRIT OF LUCY'S AVENGING DESCENDANT...
THE SCARLET WITCH
I SEE HER, LUCY!
AYE, WANDA -- VALMOORA, THE SEERESS! IF ANYONE CAN TELL US HOW TO BREAK THE ENCHANTMENT THAT HOLDS YE IN MY FORM, SHE IS THE ONE!
LUCY SPEAKS AGAIN TO HER "GHOST".
You Shouldn't Live in the Past
SEPARATE LIVES, PART III


WHATE ER YE WANT FROM VALMOORA, STRANGERS, SWORDS WILL NOT AID YE!
I SEEK INFORMATION, SEERESS AND I AM PREPARED TO PAY! I AM THE PIRATE RED LUCY!
STAND AT READY, AARON.
AYE, LUCY.
AH! JEWELS!
HOW MAY MY POWERS AID THEE, THEN?
I NEED A SPELL--
TO RETURN A WANDERING SPIRIT, I SEE.
YES, VALMOORA CAN SEE IT FLICKERING ABOVE YE!
A SPIRIT FROM ANOTHER TIME!
IT MUST CROSS DECADES--AGES--TO FIND ITS PLACE!
I WILL SHOW YE--
--AH, THE MISTS SHOW THE FUTURE!
THEY SHOW YOUR CHILDREN--GROWING AND MARRYING, AND HAVING CHILDREN OF THEIR OWN.
THE MYSTERY OF BIRTH--THE SHADE OF DEATH--AND BETWEEN THEM YOUR BLOODLINE CONTINUES THROUGH THE CENTURIES.
THEN COMES A TIME OF POWER BEINGS--AND YOU ARE ONE OF ITS FOREBEARS, FROM YOUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN COME THOSE WHO CAN COMMAND NATURE
AND ONE OF THOSE IS THE RESTLESS SPIRIT WHO SEEKS HER WAY HOME NOW!

YOU WERE RIGHT TO COME HERE, PIRATE QUEEN, FOR VALMOORA CAN ADVISE YOU -- I KNOW A SPELL TO RESTORE YOUR SPIRIT-TWIN TO HER RIGHTFUL TIME...
...BUT IT MUST BE DONE SOON, OR SHE WILL HAVE NO RIGHTFUL PLACE THERE. HER BODY WILL BECOME A VESSEL NO SOUL CAN FILL!
HORRIBLE! HORRIBLE! WE MUST PREVENT THAT!
I CAN TEACH YOU THE SPELL, BUT YOU NEED MUCH POWER TO EFFECT IT--
--YOU NEED THE STONES OF MERLIN!
THE STONES OF MERLIN? BUT THEY ARE HELD BY THE EARL OF DARWELL!
AND GUARDED BY DARWELL'S DEMON!
THANK YOU, LUCY! THE PAST MASTER MAY HAVE SEPARATED MY SPIRIT AND MY BODY AND SENT ME BACK HERE--
-- BUT I CAN'T ALLOW HIM TO STEAL MY LIFE!
NO MATTER! WE WILL GET THEM! I WILL NOT FAIL YOU, WANDA!

A SHORT TIME LATER, LUCY AND A SMALL LANDING PARTY STEAL THROUGH THE WOODS OUTSIDE DARWELL'S CASTLE...
THE LEGEND OF THE EARL'S DEMON SERVES HIM WELL, ME HEARTIES. HIS CASTLE APPEARS UNGUARDED -- AS IF HE FEARS NO ATTACK.
HE HAS HIS SENTRY FROM SATAN, LUCY!
AYE, THE DEMON.
I LIKE THIS NOT, CAP'N!

...AND THEN THEY PASS THROUGH ITS OPEN DOORS.
THIS CAN'T BE RIGHT!
AYE, NO NOBLE'S THIS TRUSTING, NO CASTLE THIS DESERTED!
WHAT NOW?
WE SPLIT UP AND SEARCH, MEN! WE SEEK THE EARL OR HIS TREASURE!

THEN, SUDDENLY...
IT WAS A TRAP!
K-KLANG

CAPTAIN!
LUCY!
WE'RE CUT OFF FROM YE, LUCY!
FWOOOSH
THE HEAT--IT'S TERRIBLE!
DON'T RISK YOURSELF, MEN! I'LL KEEP--
--SAFE...
HA HA HA HA HA HAHAH
SHOW YOURSELF, TRICKSTER--AND SEE IF MY BLADE CAN CHANGE YOUR HIGH SPIRITS!
A BOLD CHALLENGE, FROM A SNEAK THIEF! LET YOUR MEN WITNESS THE FATE OF THEIR HEAD--
--AT THE TALONS OF A DEMON!
YOU'LL REGRET COVETING THE TREASURE OF MY MASTER!
WHAT CAN WE DO, WANDA, AGAINST SUCH A FEARSOME APPARITION?
KEEP YOUR HEAD, LUCY! REMEMBER, WE WIELD MY POWER, TOO!
YOU AND YOUR PIRATES WILL BE EXAMPLES TO OTHER INTRUDERS, WOMAN!
I WILL POST YOUR LIFELESS BODIES ON STAKES AND RING THE CASTLE WITH THEM--
--A GRIM WARNING THAT DARWELL CASTLE IS GUARDED BY THE POWERS OF THE UNDERWORLD! NONE CAN HOPE TO VIOLATE IT AND LIVE!

WE WILL NOT EVEN SUPERNATURAL BEINGS ARE IMMUNE TO THE HEX POWER OF THE SCARLET WITCH!
YAAAARRRRGGHHH!
HE'S CAUGHT FIRE! WAS THIS SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN, WANDA?
NO, BUT I THINK I KNOW WHY IT DID!
AIM AT THE FLOOR, LUCY, AND LET MY HEX POWER FLOW THROUGH YOU AGAIN!
I'M BURNING! I'M BURNING!
IT WORKED, WANDA! WE CALLED UP WATER FROM AN UNDERGROUND RIVER!
IT'S PUTTING OUT THE FIRE WALL--AND THE FLAMES ON THE DEMON!
POOM
POOM!
YE DID IT AGAIN, LUCY!
AND NOW FOR YE, BILGE-RAT!
THOSE FLAMES DIDN'T COME FROM THE PITS--THEY'RE YOUR COSTUME BURNING! YE'RE NOT A DEMON!
YE'RE JUST A MUMMER! YE'RE NOTHING MORE THAN--
THUD

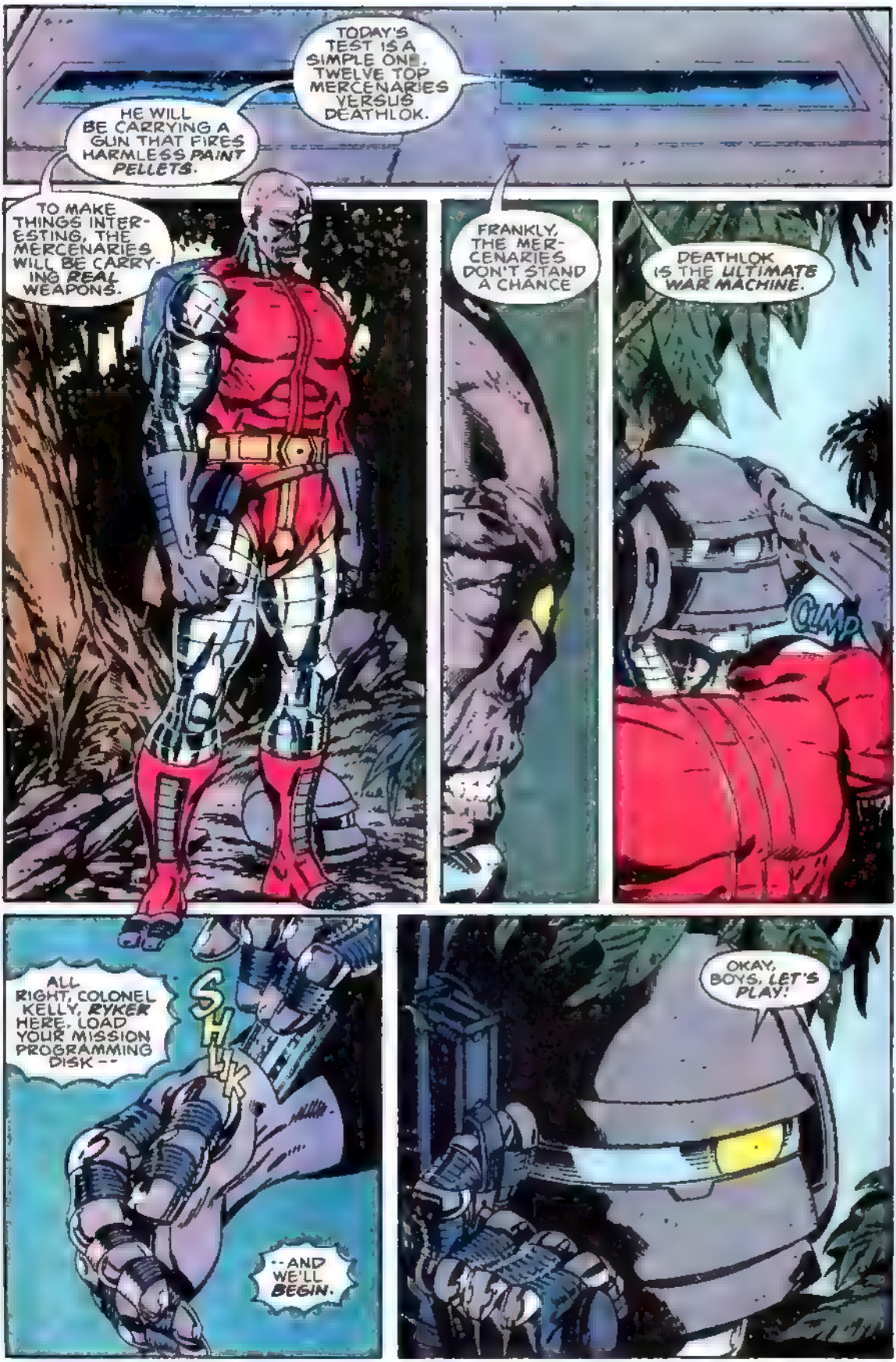
--THE EARL OF DARWELL HIMSELF!
M-MERCY, PIRATE QUEEN!
I WAS JUST DEFENDING MY TREASURE. SPARE ME AND YE MAY HAVE IT!
AYE, I SHALL HAVE IT, NOBLEMAN--
--AND I WILL SPARE YE. WHERE BE THE BOOTY?
UP THOSE STAIRS, BEHIND THE DOOR...
TO IT, MEN!
AYE, LUCY!
AND BEHIND THE EASILY-OPENED DOOR...
...LIES THE ANSWER TO TWO PRAYERS.
THIS IS A KING'S RANSOM OF SWAG, CAP'N!
NEVER MIND THAT! IS..?
YES, LUCY! HERE IT IS, JUST AS THE SEERESS SAID--THE STONES OF MERLIN!
AND MUCH MORE BESIDES!
SO, A SHORT TIME LATER, AFTER HAVING RETURNED TO THE SCARLET RAIDER, THE PIRATE QUEEN AND HER DESCENDANT ENTHUSE OVER THEIR VICTORY...
...AND PREPARE THEIR FAREWELLS...
I PRAY VALMOORA'S SPELL SUCCEEDS, WANDA, FOR I KNOW YOU MUST RETURN TO YOUR OWN TIME, BUT I AM SADDENED IN MY HEART BY THAT WISH--
--FOR I KNOW THAT WE WILL NEVER MEET AGAIN!
I OWE YOU SO MUCH, LUCY...
...BUT YOU'RE RIGHT--I CAN'T STAY HERE. MY LIFE IS MINE--AND I WON'T HAVE IT TAKEN FROM ME BY THE PAST MASTER, OR ANYONE!
CAN WE BEGIN?

WE HAVE ALL WE NEED--THE FULL MOON, THE STONES, AND VALMOORA'S SPELL.
WE MUST DRAW UPON THE POWER OF THE STONES AND CHANT TOGETHER, WANDA...
"LET THE POWER OF THE ANCIENTS DORMANT IN THESE MYSTIC OBJECTS FLOW FORWARD TO US--IN OUR TIME LET IT OPEN THE CORRIDORS OF THE AGES AND MAKE THEM RESPOND TO OUR COMMANDS."
THE STONES ARE GLOWING...
"BY GEM, BY JEWEL, BY IVORY BONE...
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO ME...
"...LET HER DISPLACED SPIRIT RETURN TO HOME..."
"LET THE PROPER AGES RECEIVE THEIR OWN!"
THANK YOU, LUCY!
THANK YOU...
FARE YE WELL, WANDA!
LUCY, IS YOUR GHOST ALLY GONE? IS THIS STRANGE TIME OVER?
AYE, CAP'N. CAN WE GET BACK TO NORMAL?
NO, AARON, NATHAN... THOSE TIMES ARE OVER!
THIS IS MY LAST VOYAGE AS A PIRATE! NO MORE PLUNDER --NO MORE KILLING!
I'M TAKING MY SHARE OF OUR HOARD AND GOING TO LIVE MY LIFE AS A GENTLEWOMAN! I OWE IT TO MYSELF --AND TO MY CHILDREN!
YE'RE STEPPIN' DOWN, CAP'N? WE'LL MISS YE

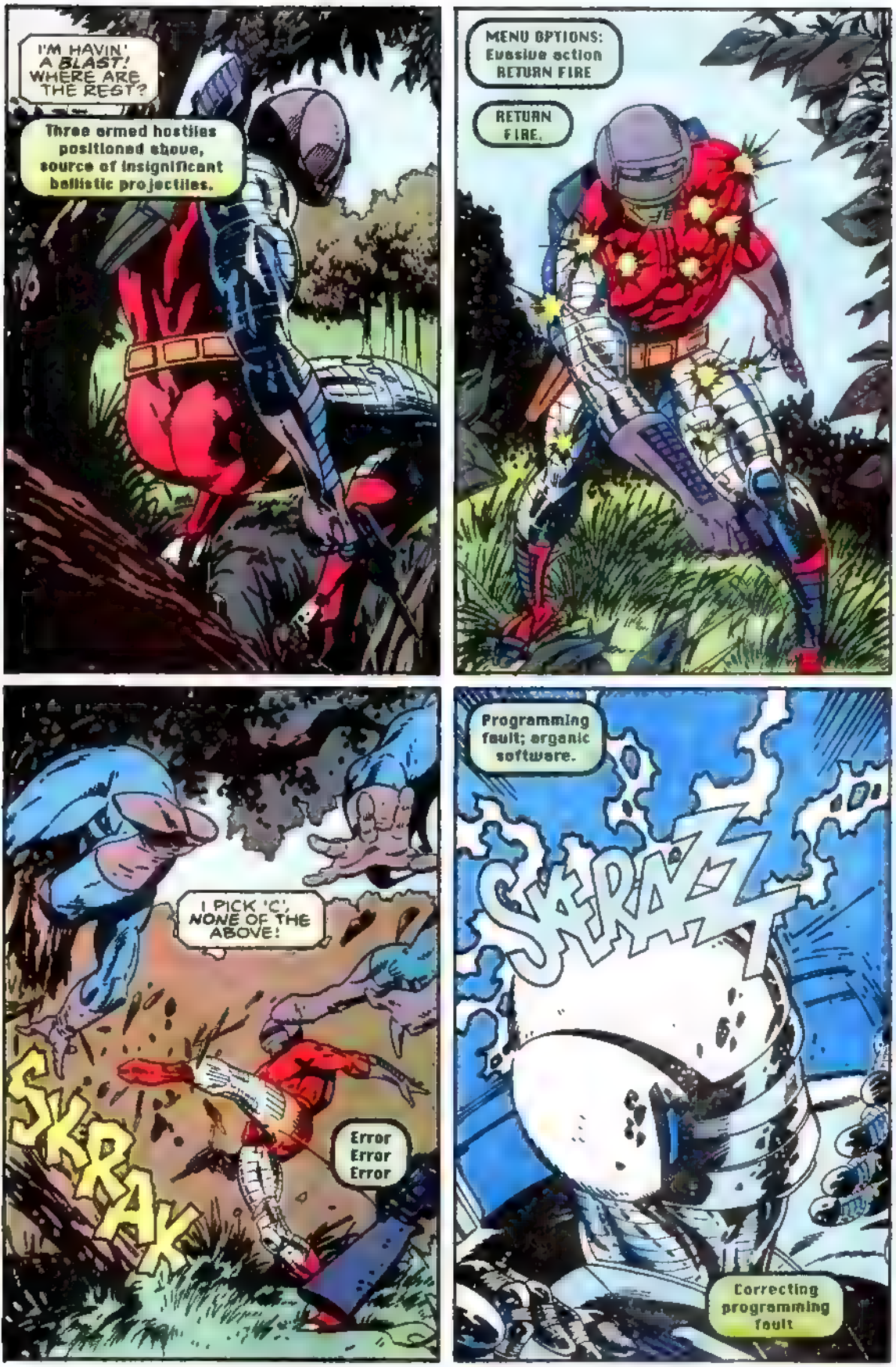
YE'LL GET BY, ME HEARTIES! YE'LL BE WEALTHY--
--AND YE'LL HAVE THE STONES OF MERLIN!
I WON'T TAKE A SHARE OF THEM, I DON'T WANT THEM!
WITH A BOOTY LIKE THAT TO OFFER, LUCY...
WE'LL GAIN OURSELVES A GRAND NEW CAPTAIN!*
*A STORY TOLD IN ITS ENTIRETY IN FANTASTIC FOUR #5. --TERRY
AND WHAT WILL YE GAIN, WANDA?
YE CHANGED MY LIFE FOREVER, AND I OWE IT TO YOU TO KEEP MY CHILDREN --YOUR FOREBEARS --SAFE.
BUT I FEAR FOR YOU, AND I PRAY YOU CAN DEFEAT YOUR ENEMY AND RECLAIM YOUR LIFE...
...WHILE YOU STILL HAVE TIME LEFT!
CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE: "WORLD ENOUGH... AND TIME!"

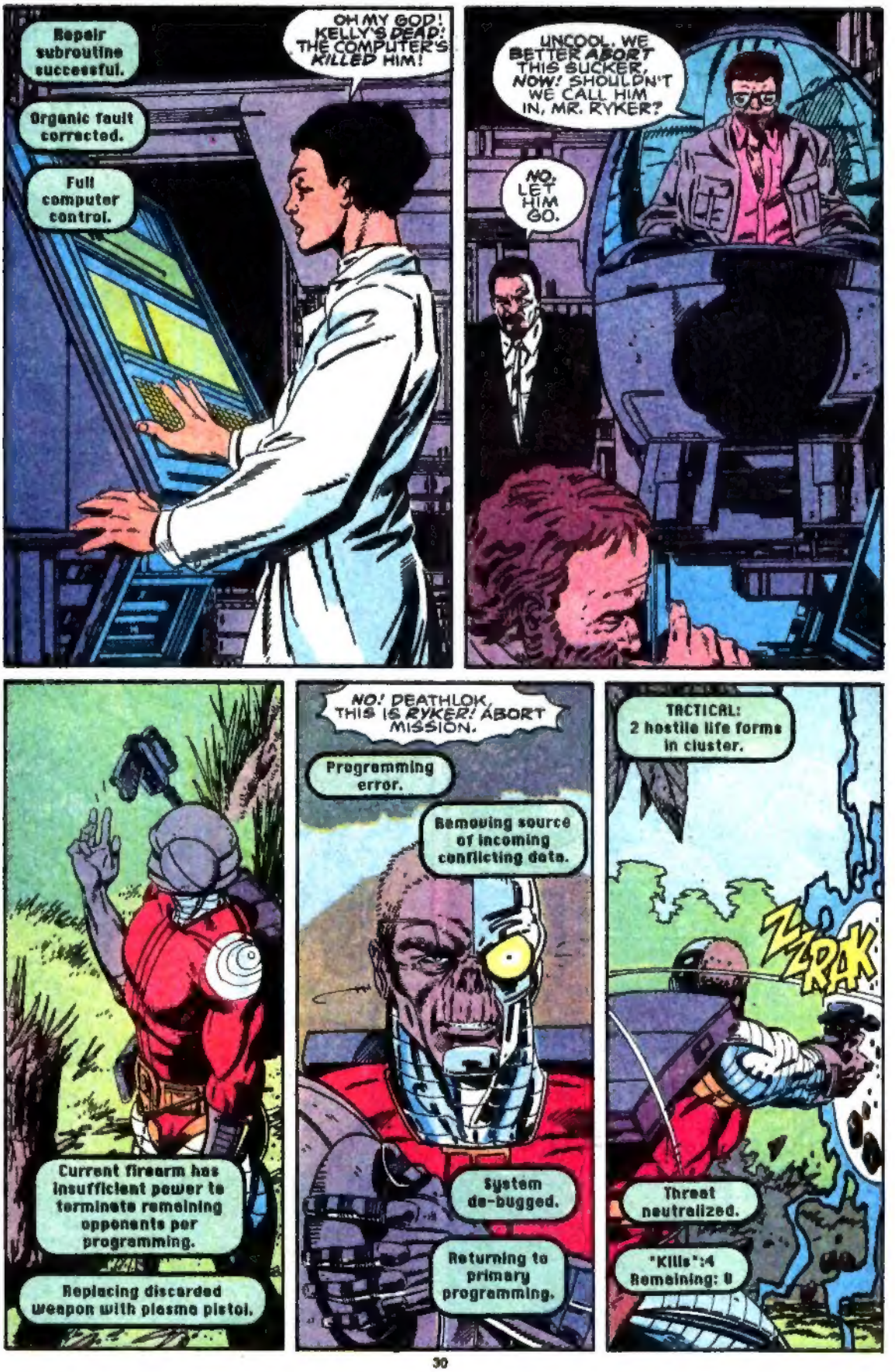
TEST RUN
THIS IS
DEATHLOK

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY...
CYBERTEK WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT TESTING FACILITY NUMBER FOUR...
AS YOU WILL SEE FROM THIS DEMONSTRATION, MR. BURR, WE HAVE MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN OUR CYBERNETICS PROGRAM.
I'M CONFIDENT THAT THE DEATHLOK CYBORG WILL PROVE TO BE THE MOST VERSATILE MILITARY WEAPON EVER CREATED.
HE'S MUCH MORE THAN A COMPUTERIZED ROBOT.
HE'S A SUPER-SOLDIER -- GUIDED BY THE TRANSPLANTED BRAIN OF ONE OF THIS COUNTRY'S GREATEST FIGHTING MEN --
-- COLONEL JOHN KELLY.


TODAY'S TEST IS A SIMPLE ONE. TWELVE TOP MERCENARIES VERSUS DEATHLOK.
HE WILL BE CARRYING A GUN THAT FIRES HARMLESS PAINT PELLETS.
TO MAKE THINGS INTERESTING, THE MERCENARIES WILL BE CARRYING REAL WEAPONS.
FRANKLY, THE MERCENARIES DON'T STAND A CHANCE
DEATHLOK IS THE ULTIMATE WAR MACHINE.
CLUMP
ALL RIGHT, COLONEL KELLY, RYKER HERE. LOAD YOUR MISSION PROGRAMMING DISK --
SHLIK
--AND WE'LL BEGIN.
OKAY, BOYS, LET'S PLAY!

WHAT DO WE GOT, 'PUTER?
TACTICAL: 2 hostile life forms in sensor range.
This unit being targeted by light anti-tank weapon.
MENU OPTIONS: pre-emptory strike additional recon EVASIVE ACTION
OKAY, 'PUTER, EVADE!
BBOOOM
'PUTER, RETURN FIRE!
PEFT
PFFT
Returning fire.
AHHH! I'M OUT!
SPLUP
Threat neutralized.
SPLUP
"Kills":2 Remaining: 18
YESSS!

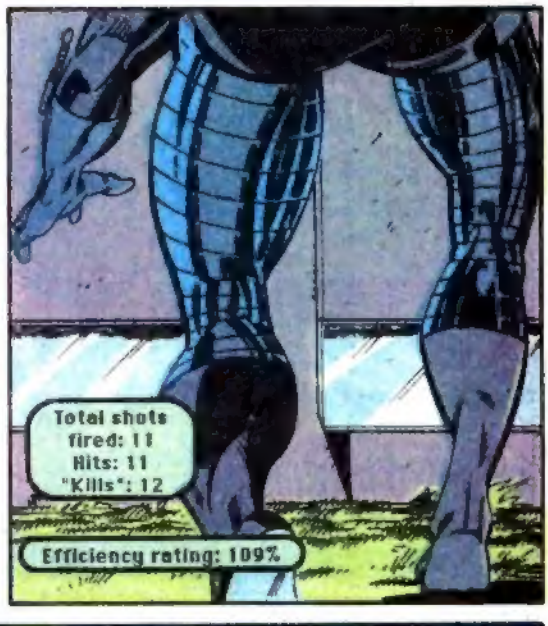

I'M HAVIN' A BLAST! WHERE ARE THE REST?
Three armed hostiles positioned above, source of insignificant ballistic projectiles.
MENU OPTIONS: Evasive action RETURN FIRE
RETURN FIRE.
I PICK 'C', NONE OF THE ABOVE!
SKRAK
Error Error Error
Programming fault; organic software.
SKRAZZ
Correcting programming fault


Repair subroutine successful.
Organic fault corrected.
Full computer control.
OH MY GOD! KELLY'S DEAD! THE COMPUTER'S KILLED HIM!
UNCOOL. WE BETTER ABORT THIS SUCKER, NOW! SHOULDN'T WE CALL HIM IN, MR. RYKER?
NO. LET HIM GO.
Current firearm has insufficient power to terminate remaining opponents per programming.
Replacing discarded weapon with plasma pistol.
NO! DEATHLOK, THIS IS RYKER! ABORT MISSION.
Programming error.
Removing source of incoming conflicting data.
System de-bugged.
Returning to primary programming.
TACTICAL: 2 hostile life forms in cluster.
ZZRAK
Threat neutralized.
"Kills":4 Remaining: 0

GAHHH!
"Kills":9
Remaining: 3

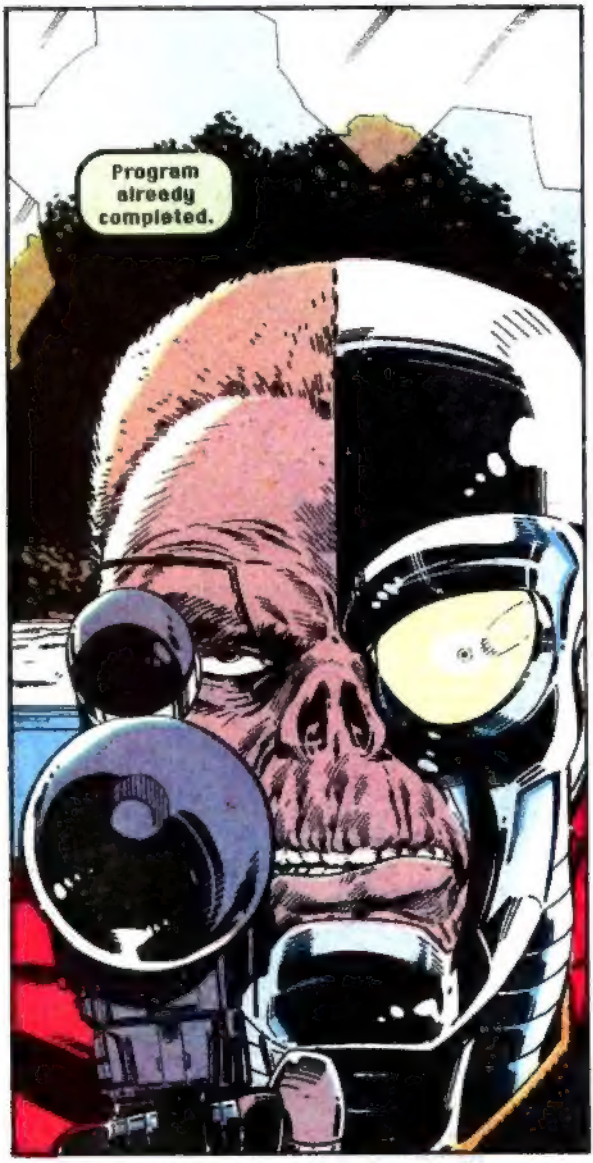
ZZRAK
Hand to hand encounter has caused malfunction in hostile.
SKRUT
Counting as "kill."
"Kills":11
Remaining: 1

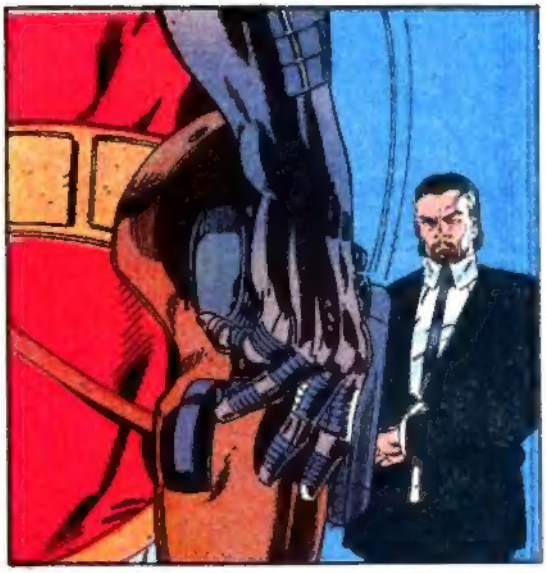
ZZRAK
"Kills":12
Remaining: 0


Total shots fired: 11
Hits: 11
"Kills": 12
Efficiency rating: 109%

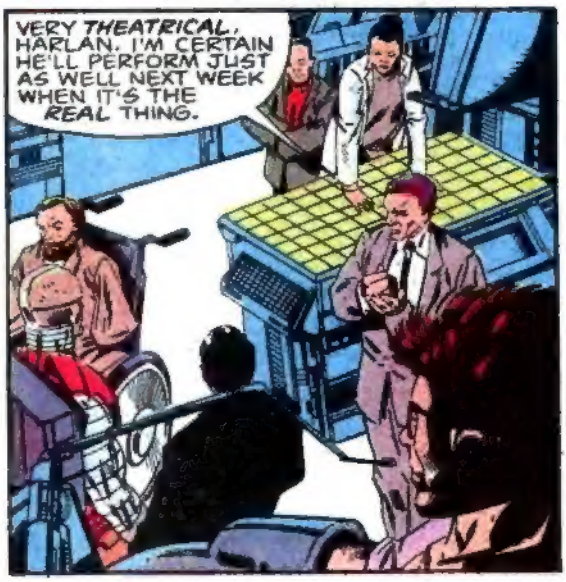
KERASH

DEATHLOK, ABORT MISSION.
Option unavailable.


Program already completed.



THANK YOU, DEATH-LOK.
SHUT DOWN ALL SYSTEMS.
FLOO


VERY THEATRICAL, HARLAN. I'M CERTAIN HE'LL PERFORM JUST AS WELL NEXT WEEK WHEN IT'S THE REAL THING.

GOOD DAY.
ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE, I WANT TO KNOW WHAT WENT WRONG, NOW! STRIP HIM DOWN. REPAIR HIM. I WANT HIM READY FOR A BRAIN TRANSPLANT IMMEDIATELY!
WHERE ARE WE GOING TO FIND A VOLUNTEER FOR A BRAIN TRANSPLANT IN LESS THAN A WEEK?
WHO SAID "VOLUN-TEER..?"
THE END.

FIRST BLOOD FOR DEATHLOK
SCARLET WITCH TRIES TO RECOVER HER FUTURE!
POISON KILLS!